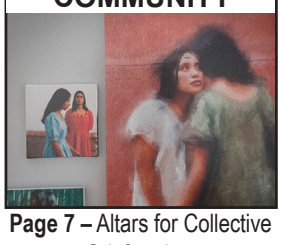
COMMUNITY

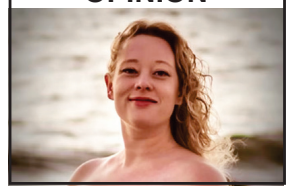


Page 7 – Altars for Collective Grief project

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1, Oldest, Largest and Only Bilingual Hispanic News • Free! ¡Gratis! • Vol. 37, #9 • **January 15, 2026**

OPINION



Pages 8- 9 – Guests comment about the lethal shooting of Renee Good

El "ICE fuera de nuestras calles" que se escuchó de costa a costa en Michigan

Texto y fotos por Erick Diaz Veliz

La noche del jueves 8 de enero, el cielo nublado y una ligera llovizna presagiaban una fuerte lluvia en el oeste de Michigan. Para cuando empezó a llover, alrededor de doscientas personas habían ido llegando de a pocos a la Plaza Calder, en el centro de Grand Rapids. Algunas tenían el rostro cubierto, otras sostenían velas y levantaban pancartas; todas proclamaban el mismo mensaje: "ICE fuera de nuestras calles".

Y es que la indignación no era nueva. Algunos carteles eran viejos, reutilizados de protestas pasadas, mientras que otros eran más sencillos, sin colores. El mensaje era lo importante.

"Sería un hipócrita marchar por Patrick Lyoya, por Breonna

Continúa en la página 5

Shouts of "ICE off our streets" Heard Loudly from Coast to Coast across Michigan

Story and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

On Thursday evening, January 8, a cloudy sky and light raindrops foreshadowed the heavy rain that would whip across west Michigan that night. Around two hundred people had slowly filled Calder Plaza in downtown Grand Rapids when the rain began. Some had their faces covered, some held candles, and signs were held aloft, all together proclaiming the same message: ICE off our streets.

The outrage itself wasn't new either. Some signs were old, reused from past protests, and others were simple, lacking color. The message was important.

"I would be a hypocrite to march for Patrick Lyoya, for

Continues on page 2

Explore Michigan connections, Latino history of black velvet paintings at new museum exhibit

Free admission on Saturday, January 17th

History and art join in the Michigan History Museum's latest special exhibit, "Black Velvet: A Rasquache Aesthetic" – open now through late November. The exhibit explores black velvet paintings and their place in Latino history.

"The exhibit showcases more than 100 black velvet paintings on loan from Michigan collectors Diana Rivera, Elena Herrada and Minerva Martinez," said Jillian Reese, curator of exhibits for the Michigan History Museum. "They not only loaned us paintings from their personal collections but also shared their expansive knowledge and personal experience with us."

Celebrate the opening of the exhibit with a free day at the museum Saturday, Jan. 17. From 1 to 3 p.m., enjoy hands-on craftmaking inspired by the exhibit's vivid black velvet paintings.

"This exhibit is vital to the Latino community, and its presence at a state institution is significant," said Minerva Martinez, guest curator.

Inside 'Black Velvet: A Rasquache Aesthetic'

Instead of canvases or paper, black velvets are painted on rich, textured fabric. While the subject of each painting varies, the deep black background is a staple that helps the colors pop. The term "rasquache" refers to the creation of art and beauty from everyday materials.

"The importance of black velvet must be understood as an instinct: the right to appreciate beauty in all its forms," said Elena Herrada, guest curator. "Love of velvet is a class statement. We grew up with velvets in our homes."

The pieces, many made in workshops throughout Mexico and the Southwest U.S., became popular among tourists in the 1960s and '70s. As a result, many of them reflect subject matter that appealed to tourists, such as bull fights, American celebrities and Southwest landscapes. Other popular subject matter includes animals and religious figures.

Black velvets are created on rich, textured fabric. The term "rasquache" refers to the creation of art and beauty from everyday materials.

While most of the paintings were created in Mexico or the Southwest, a section of the exhibit features Michigan artists who have been inspired by the guest curators' collections.

On the back wall of the exhibit, a staged black velvet workshop demonstrates the artistic process. To create a black velvet, an artist stretches velvet over a wooden frame, then applies one color at a time.

"We're very pleased that the Michigan History Museum is exhibiting the black velvet collection," said Diana Rivera, guest curator. "Despite their profound influence on Michigan's social, economic and cultural development, Latino communities have been underrepresented in state and national cultural institutions for generations."

With guidance from the guest curators, the MHC exhibits team designed and fabricated the exhibit. After a brief introduction, including a velvet wall visitors can touch, the exhibit flows through different sections of paintings.

"This exhibit includes a lot of unique design and fabrication," said Reese. "This is the first time the museum has provided bilingual labels for all content. Each label is written in both English and Spanish. For any unframed velvets, our carpenters crafted frames that match the look of traditional black velvet frames."

The design team pulled inspiration from Mexican American culture and the paintings themselves for color and font choices.

"The museum's 2026 yearlong sharing of the velvets addresses the historical gaps in our Chicanx and Latinx representation in a significant State of Michigan institution while demonstrating their commitment to equity, educational inclusion and cultural stewardship," said Rivera.

The Michigan History Museum's new exhibit explores black velvet paintings and their connection to Latino history. The museum's exhibits team created and designed the exhibit with help from three guest curators, who loaned paintings from their personal collections.

Column written by Elena Herada on page 5

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“ICE off our streets”

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Photos by Erick Diaz Veliz and Luciana Vega

Breonna Taylor, to show up for George Floyd, for Samuel Sterling, and then not come out here today to support you. We are all fighting for justice—for Renee Nicole Good,” said Kent County Commissioner Robert Womack.

The murder of Good, a 37-year-old mother of three shot by a masked ICE agent during a morning raid in Minneapolis on Wednesday, fueled and unleashed the accumulated outrage towards immigration agents. From that day throughout the weekend, protests led thousands to take to the streets around the country.

Several demonstrations also erupted in Michigan: Lansing, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Ann Arbor, and Detroit witnessed the crowds. In every demonstration, speeches and signs were held since the immigrant crackdown began; however, in Detroit, the 500 protesters that gathered at Clark Park on Friday were longing for something different. What started as a vigil led to a march along Vernor Hwy. and neighboring streets in Mexicantown.

For many, the videos that went viral worldwide in hours were more than evident: a murder perpetrated by a federal agent in broad daylight in a residential neighborhood, in the city where George Floyd died six years ago at the hands of a local police officer. Good’s killing was preceded by the deployment of 2,000 immigration agents in the Twin Cities: Minneapolis and St. Paul, in response to allegations of tax fraud involving Somali residents in the blue state.

After the shooting, the usual polarization intensified. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said he would prepare the state’s National Guard to protect the community from federal agents. Minnesota’s attorney general sued the federal government on Monday for shutting out local officials from any follow up investigation. Nevertheless, since Wednesday, Washington has claimed that everything was provoked by the “radical left”; that Good was a “domestic terrorist” and that the agent responded to a lethal threat.

“Our officer followed his training, did exactly what he’s been taught to do in that situation,” declared Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem. “She behaved horribly,” Trump said to New York Times reporters referring to the victim during a meeting in the Oval Office hours after the shooting. “And then she ran him over. She didn’t try to run him over. She ran him over.” Despite reporters questioning the self-defense narrative, Trump avoided further comment, saying that “it’s a horrible video to watch.”

In Michigan, from a sandwich shop in Muskegon that has banned ICE agents to pronouncements from political leaders, the same polarization of views was also reflected.

Detroit Councilwoman Gabriela Santiago-Romero sent a memo to the city’s legal and legislative authorities encouraging them to “enact and enforce” policies to protect the community from federal agents. See a public statement the Councilmember released on pg 8.

In an interview with CNN regarding “abolishing ICE,” Senator Elissa Slotkin, a Democrat from Michigan, stated that we need law enforcement. “You need law enforcement, you do, I’m sorry, and whether you’re using them correctly, that’s a whole different conversation,” she responded. “I am not for abolishing law enforcement.”

State Senate Aric Nesbitt (R-MI), a GOP candidate for Michigan governor, repeatedly declared “I stand with ICE” in a series of posts on X. He also qualified Good’s actions as “domestic terrorism.”

Governor Gretchen Whitmer did not make any public comments about Good’s death.

Good was not the first, and community unity is growing.

By Thursday night, the officer who shot Good had a face and a name: Jonathan Ross, 43, a deportation officer since 2016. The following day, the footage Ross recorded with his cell phone was released by the DHS.

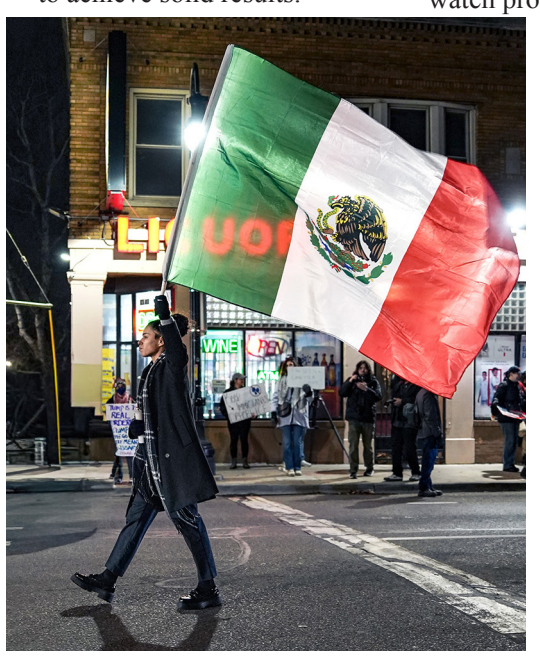
“I’m not mad at you,” were Good’s last words to Ross from inside her car, during the confrontation with three ICE agents who surrounded her. The woman backed up her SUV after another agent tried to open her door, then turned the steering wheel to the right to drive away. At the same time, Ross, filming with his left hand, sprinted to the left of the vehicle and pulled his gun. He fired one shot through the windshield, right side, and two more through the side window. The car then veered erratically before crashing.

For Pauli Astudillo, a member of the Detroit People’s Assembly, Good was murdered for defending her community, something that many people also do here in Detroit. “Only united can we change our situations, whether it’s against the attacks of immigration enforcement or, more importantly, against the devastation caused by their actions,” she said during the protest in Detroit.

Good’s death was neither the first nor the second at the hands of an ICE agent. A report by The Trace, based on Gun Violence Archive data and news clips, shows that since Trump took office, ICE agents have been involved in shootings approximately 16 times. The number of civilians killed in these shootings rose to four. The report also acknowledges that this number may be undercounted, as shootings involving agents aren’t usually made public unless they are widely reported. It also added that agents are rarely prosecuted after firing their weapons.

The frustration and disappointment over the immigrant crackdown continue to be the public portrait of these protests.

“The only source of power that has brought about real change, truly progressive change, movements toward democracy, equality, and justice, has been a movement of, for, and by the people,” said Nicole Conaway, 48, a member of the Coalition to Defend Immigrant Rights (BAMN). She emphasizes the need to organize general strikes to achieve solid results.



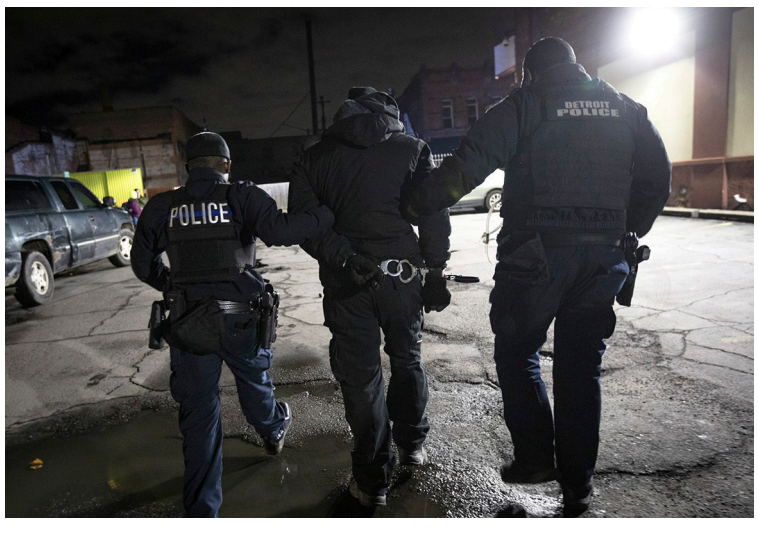
The possibility of collaboration between local authorities and the federal government is another issue that has the community more tense than ever. “Detroit must not collaborate in any way. No resources, no tax money from Detroit residents should go in any way to support the acts of terrorism that immigration enforcement is carrying out in our city,” Astudillo added.

In Detroit during Friday’s march, one person was arrested after scuffles with counter-protesters. The Detroit Police Department did not respond to the request for comments regarding the arrest.

And while Minneapolis is the current epicenter of the ICE resistance in the US and Washington D.C. prepares to increase the number of agents in Minnesota, from Grand Rapids to Detroit, immigrant advocacy groups are urging the public to volunteer in their efforts, by providing information on rights, distributing whistles, participating in ICE watch programs, and preparing for encounters with immigration authorities.

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.



Southwest Detroit Violin Ensemble to Perform on National Stage

Photos by Dr. Saraí Aboites

In the landscape of music education, where group initiatives often dissolve after a single academic cycle, Violines Cromáticos has defied the odds. The violin ensemble, based in Southwest Detroit, began as a modest after school class of 15 children through the Sphinx Overture Program. In March 2026, ten of those original students—some of whom began as young as eight years old—will make their debut at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City.

From Classroom to Cultural Force The group's trajectory underwent a decisive professional transformation following their invitation in June of 2023 to Detroit's renowned "Concert of Colors" chapter, hosted by the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation. This performance served as a critical inflection point: the moment the ensemble realized their work extended beyond a music class—they were becoming a representative voice for their heritage.

This status was solidified through a strategic partnership with Mark Mutter, Executive Director of the Suzuki Academy of Michigan. Recognizing the ensemble's potential, Mutter facilitated an invitation to the American String Teachers Association (ASTA) National Convention in Kentucky in 2024. The favorable reception at ASTA—driven by the ensemble's performance cohesion and disciplined ensemble work—directly inspired the strategic initiative to present the group on the national stage in New York.

Teaching Artist Maria Bucco (back row, left), Dr. Wendy Kao (center, back), and Dr. Saraí Aboites (far right) pose with the violin ensemble following their performance at the Kentucky ASTA Conference on March 22, 2024.

Their growing local prominence is reflected in a series of engagements with regional institutions, responding to increased demand for their performances. In December, the ensemble appeared at the Michigan Charter Schools Association conference and at a traditional posada hosted by Casa Guadalupana. On January 26, they will participate in National School Choice Week at the Majestic Theatre. The ensemble has also taken part in collaborative outreach initiatives with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

The Architect: Dr. Sarai Aboites. The elevation of this group is the direct result of the instructional vision of violist Dr. Sarai Aboites, in collaboration with founder Maria Bucco. Serving as the Program Manager of the summer camp program and Lead Faculty for the Sphinx Overture school year, Dr. Aboites discovered a profound connection with the Southwest Detroit community that reshaped her professional focus.

Redefining the Method Rather than relying on off-the-shelf teaching materials, she tailored a specific curriculum and compiled a unique repertoire that integrates with the students' cultural identity. Identifying a significant gap in traditional string literature and the success of this customized curriculum inspired Dr. Aboites to systematize her approach. This ongoing project involves gathering contemporary folk tunes and children's songs, relevant to this specific demographic, applying the core system of the Suzuki approach to an expanded cultural repertoire.

Teaching Artist Dr. Saraí Aboites accompanying students during ensemble rehearsal at the Cesar Chavez Academy Upper Elementary Classroom on December 5, 2025

Her research suggests that technical proficiency is more effectively processed when learning is "organic"—utilizing the specific music students hear their parents and grandparents singing at home to create immediate engagement. This expertise is evident in the ensemble's demanding repertoire; under her direction, students navigate complex works ranging from classical staples like J.S. Bach to Mexican, Chilean, and Venezuelan pieces such as "Cascabel", "Scherzino Mexicano" and "El Trancao," "Pajarillo" as well as African compositions like "Mele Sue."

For more information about Violines Cromáticos and future performances, contact Dr. Sarai Aboites at overture@sphinxmusic.org To support the group please follow the QR Code.

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,

Eric R. Sabree

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Why Black Velvet?

By Elena Herada

The importance of Black Velvet must be understood as an instinct. The right to appreciate beauty in all of its forms. Love of velvet is a class statement. We grew up with velvets in our homes; Popo, Elvis, bullfighters dominated the themes, but also animals, Indian chiefs; beautiful naked women, all found their way to this esteemed media.

To Chicanos, to Mexican Americans, pride is the inverse of shame. To other groups who are raised in their ancestral culture, ethnic or racial pride is a given. To us, not necessarily. I remember one time my father saying to us, "Never be ashamed of what you are."

What? Wait? Ashamed? The conversation ended there, but my suspicions were confirmed. Something about us was different. Less than. I must have been around seven years old when I heard that admonition.

The art we surround ourselves with reflects our sense of beauty. In my grandparents' house, there were Popo and Itza images on the walls from years and years of calendars collected from the Mexican grocery stores. There were tapestries of bullfighters and Abraham, Martin and John. This was the aesthetic of pride. This was the beauty I identified with. Razquache.

Chicano Studies provided a space for us to share these ideas and locate them in our own experiences.

It's hard to describe the feeling of being in a room with people who identify with this notion of aesthetic pride. To understand that art can be dismissed and condescended and even shamed. The Chicano Movement turned that on its head and claimed with militance the right to love what we love; to display proudly what our people consider beauty. With our elders, our parents, each other.

Courtesy of Michigan Historical Museum.

In my own experience, we did not speak Spanish at home, we did not have any connection to Mexican holidays beyond Christmas gatherings with my grandfather's legendary pinatas, which no human could break without an ouzi. We had tamales, good times, all of which came to an end with their deaths.

When the moment came that we would exhibit our collection of velvets, we were on a mission. The first exhibit was in Lansing at the Rosado Gallery. We did not need to explain ourselves to anyone there or anyone who attended. Lansing is full of Chicanos with their own velvets.

At the Detroit exhibit at the Latino Cultural Center, patrons of this beloved medium came with their own velvets in hand and added them to our exhibit. Others brought theirs and donated them as they were so happy to see the velvets all together, As if they had been waiting in attics and garages and basements for their beauty to be remembered.

“ICE fuera de nuestras calles”

Continuado de la página 1

Fotos por Erick Diaz Veliz y Luciana Vega

Taylor, venir por George Floyd, por Samuel Sterling, y luego no venir hoy aquí a apoyarlos. Todos queremos justicia —por Renee Nicole Good—”, dijo el comisionado del condado de Kent, Robert Womack.

El asesinato de Good, una madre de tres de 37 años, baleada por un agente de ICE con el rostro cubierto durante una redada en Minneapolis la mañana del miércoles, colapsó la indignación acumulada contra los agentes federales de inmigración. Desde el miércoles y durante todo el fin de semana, las protestas llevaron a miles de personas a tomar las calles en todo el país.

Michigan no fue ajena: Lansing, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, Ann Arbor y Detroit presenciaron concentraciones. En cada una se vieron los discursos y las pancartas de siempre desde que comenzó la ofensiva contra inmigrantes; sin embargo, en Detroit, las 500 personas que protestaron el viernes en Clark Park anhelaban algo diferente. Lo que comenzó como una vigilia derivó en una marcha por las calles de Mexicantown.

Para muchos, los videos que se hicieron virales en cuestión de horas en todo el mundo eran más que evidentes: un asesinato perpetrado por un agente federal a plena luz del día en un vecindario residencial, en la misma ciudad donde George Floyd murió hace seis años a manos de un policía local. Al asesinato de Good le precedió el despliegue de 2000 agentes de inmigración en las Ciudades Gemelas —Minneapolis y St. Paul— en respuesta a acusaciones de fraude fiscal que involucraban a residentes somalíes en este estado demócrata.

La polarización de siempre

Tras el tiroteo, la polarización de siempre se intensificó. El gobernador de Minnesota, Tim Walz, dijo que preparará a la Guardia Nacional del estado para proteger a la comunidad de los agentes federales. El fiscal general de Minnesota ha demandado al gobierno federal el lunes. No obstante, desde el miércoles, Washington ha afirmado que todo fue provocado por la “izquierda radical”; que Good era una “terrorista doméstica” y que el agente respondió a una amenaza letal.

“Nuestro oficial siguió su entrenamiento, hizo exactamente lo que se le enseñó a hacer en esa situación”, declaró la secretaria del DHS, Kristi Noem. “Se comportó de manera horrible”, dijo Trump a reporteros del NYT durante una reunión en la Oficina Oval horas después del tiroteo. “Y luego lo atropelló. No intentó atropellarlo; lo atropelló”. A pesar de que los periodistas cuestionaron la narrativa de defensa propia, Trump evitó comentar, diciendo que “es un video horrible de ver”.

En Michigan, desde una sandwichería en Muskegon que prohibió la entrada a agentes de ICE, la misma polarización también se reflejó.

La concejala de Detroit, Gabriela Santiago-Romero, envió un memo a las autoridades legales y legislativas de la ciudad alentándolas a “promulgar y hacer cumplir” políticas para proteger a la comunidad de ICE.

En una entrevista con CNN sobre “abolir ICE”, la senadora Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), afirmó que las fuerzas del orden son necesarias. “Necesitamos fuerzas del orden, lo siento. Se están utilizando correctamente, esa es otra conversación completamente distinta”, respondió. “No estoy a favor de abolir las fuerzas del orden”.

El senador Aric Nesbitt (R-MI), candidato republicano a gobernador de Michigan, declaró repetidamente “estoy con ICE” en una serie de publicaciones en X. También calificó las acciones de Good como “terrorismo doméstico”.

La gobernadora Gretchen Whitmer no comentó públicamente sobre el tiroteo.

Good no fue la primera, y la unidad comunitaria crece

Para la noche del jueves, el oficial que disparó a Good ya tenía nombre y apellido: Jonathan Ross, de 43 años, oficial de deportación desde 2016. El viernes, el DHS publicó el video que Ross grabó con su teléfono.

“No estoy enojada contigo”, fueron las últimas palabras de Good hacia Ross desde su carro, mientras otros dos agentes de ICE la rodeaban. La mujer retrocedió mientras otro agente intentaba abrir su puerta y luego giró hacia la derecha para huir. Al mismo tiempo, Ross, filmando con la mano izquierda, corrió hacia el lado izquierdo del vehículo y sacó su arma. Disparó un tiro a través del lado derecho del parabrisas y dos más por la ventana lateral. El auto luego zigzagueó hasta estrellarse.

Para Pauli Astudillo, integrante de la Asamblea Popular Detroit, Good fue asesinada por defender a su comunidad, algo que muchas personas también hacen aquí en Detroit. “Solo unidos podemos cambiar nuestra situación, ya sea con los ataques de la migra y, principalmente, con la devastación que ocasionan”, dijo durante la protesta en Detroit.

La muerte de Good no fue la primera a manos de un agente federal. Un informe de The Trace, basado en datos del Gun Violence Archive y de noticias, muestra que desde que Trump asumió el cargo, agentes de ICE han participado en 16 tiroteos. De ellas hay 4 civiles muertos. El informe también reconoce que podría haber más, ya que estos tiroteos no suelen hacerse públicos a menos que sean ampliamente cubiertos. Además, señala que los agentes rara vez son procesados.

Frustración y decepción siguen siendo el retrato público de estas protestas. “La única fuente de poder que ha generado un cambio real, un cambio verdaderamente progresista hacia la democracia, la igualdad y la justicia, ha sido un movimiento del, para y por el pueblo”, dijo Nicole Conaway, de 48 años, integrante de la Coalición para Defender los Derechos de los Inmigrantes (BAMN). Ella subraya la necesidad de organizar huelgas generales para lograr resultados concretos.

La posible colaboración entre autoridades locales y el gobierno federal es otro tema que mantiene a la comunidad más tensa que nunca. “Detroit no debe colaborar de ninguna manera. Ningún recurso, ningún impuesto de los residentes de Detroit debe destinarse a apoyar los actos de terrorismo que la migra está llevando a cabo en nuestra ciudad”, añadió Astudillo.

Durante la marcha del viernes en Detroit, una persona fue arrestada tras forcejeos con contra manifestantes. El DPD no respondió a la solicitud de comentarios sobre el arresto.

Y mientras Minneapolis es el epicentro actual de las protestas y Washington se prepara para aumentar el número de agentes en Minnesota, desde Grand Rapids hasta Detroit, los grupos de defensa pro-inmigrante piden al público a sumarse como voluntarios a sus esfuerzos, como brindar información sobre derechos, distribuir silbatos, participar en programas de vigilancia de ICE y prepararse para encuentros con las autoridades migratorias.

The 2026 Detroit Auto Show, Opens To The Public, Saturday, January 17th

From immersive track experiences and dozens of vehicle brands to a curated showcase of exotic marques, thought-provoking industry conversations, and community-driven moments that leave a lasting impact, the 2026 Detroit Auto Show is a two-week celebration of mobility, innovation, and the spirit of the Motor City. The show runs from Saturday, Jan. 17 – Sunday, Jan. 25 at Detroit's Huntington Place.

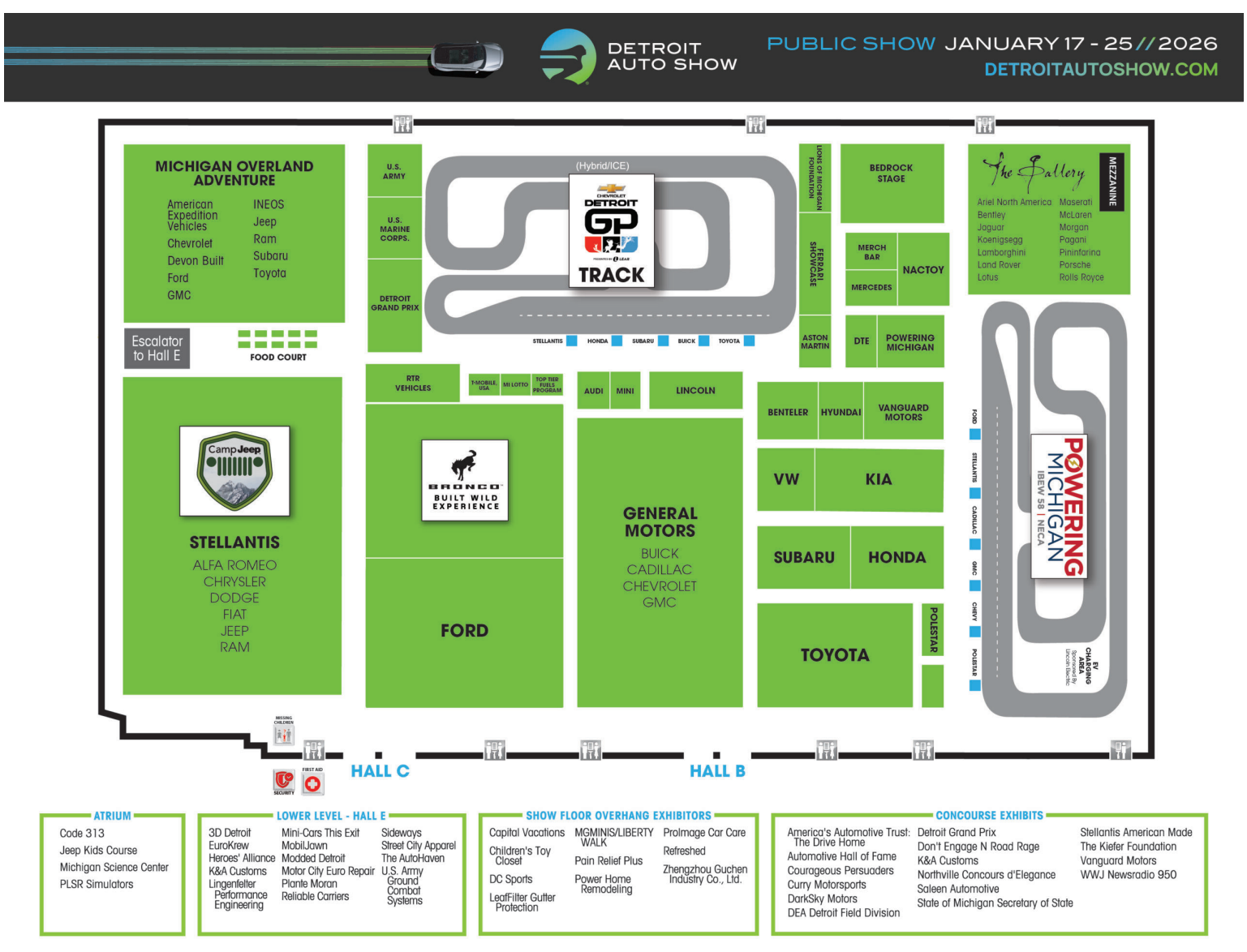
Tickets to the Detroit Auto Show, including The Gallery Fundraiser, Media & Industry Days, Charity Preview, and the Public Show are available at detroitautoshow.com.

"The minute visitors walk through the doors, they'll feel the energy as they're welcomed by more brands, more cars, more immersive experiences, and awesome digital activations that appeal to all ages and across generations," said 2026 Detroit Auto Show Chairman Todd Szott.

Signature and New Experiences at the 2026 Detroit Auto Show

- Racing Day presented by the Detroit Grand Prix returns on Jan 20 will feature drivers, stunning race cars, interactive displays and more.
- Return of The Gallery ultra-luxury and exotic vehicle showcase with 50 prestigious automobiles representing 12 brands from Aston Martin to Rolls Royce.
- Modded Detroit one of Michigan's premier automotive enthusiast groups, returns with a curated showcase of 150+ vehicles that showcases what's possible on four wheels.
- Charity Preview returns as one of the most charitable events in our city with more than $125 million raised for children's charities over the years. Multi-platinum recording artist Robin Thicke headlines the evening's entertainment.
- Michigan Overland Adventure, an all-new immersive activation that celebrates the vehicles, gear, and lifestyle of overlanding featuring custom-built trucks, off-road SUVs, adventure-ready rigs, and expedition equipment from numerous OEMs.
- The Drive Home VII: Route 66 – A Century of Adventure is a multi-day journey celebrating the 100th anniversary of the historic route beginning in Santa Monica, California, and eventually ending on display in Detroit.
- Visit Detroit Interactive Experience, a dynamic, family-friendly showcase located in the atrium at Huntington Place that is designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and career inspiration through a variety of fun activities for kids.

Detroit Auto Show LED display at Huntington Place by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL



Detroit Selected as 2027 Host venue for the NCAA Men's Final Four Basketball games

By Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL

Ford Field – Detroit, MI, will be the venue for the 2027 Final Four NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Michigan State University will be the official host NCAA institution. The Men's Final Four is the third most exciting sporting event of the year, behind the Super Bowl and NBA Finals. The event will be held on April 3 & 5, 2027. The economic impact of the event is hard to judge, however in 2009, the Final Four was held at Ford Field for the first time and the direct economic impact was estimated to be as high as $50 Millon for the City of Detroit. In 2009, the host was the University of Detroit – Mercy, and the Michigan State University Spartans Men's Basketball team played in semi-final and final game possibly increasing the impact.

On December 19, 2025, the Detroit Local Organizing Committee gathered at Ford Field to reveal the logo for the 2027 event. "The 2027 Men's Final Four° logo serves as a tribute to Detroit's heritage and toughness. Designed by Section 127, the logo draws inspiration from the city's street signs, auto tags, and industrial roots. The "313" area code reflects Detroit's deep sense of pride and place, while the basketball-record graphic nods to Hitsville and the city's Motown legacy. The brackets frame "Detroit," visually reinforcing the city as the center of the celebration."

Among the presenters at the Logo reveal on December 19, 2025 was Tom Izzo, MSU Basketball Coach. Izzo had the guests laughing when he recalled the 2009 request by the Detroit Chief of Police to allow officers

working on security details for the Championship game on Monday vs. UNC to attend what is normally a very closed and secret practice the day before the game. When the team came down the tunnel at Ford Field for the practice, Izzo expected a dozen or so officers, to his surprise, there were at least 200+ uniformed officers seated and the players were frightened that there was some kind of legal trouble. Izzo ended his comments with a statement that he wanted 2027 to be the "greatest Final Four ever"

For more information, please visit: https://tinyurl.com/5zxx7ec4

The Grief of Remembering the Absent One, the Deported One

Story and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

The "Altars for Collective Grief" project, an initiative of two Detroit residents, children of immigrants, seeks to honor and remember those who were deported across Michigan.

It was a phone call from Theresa Beckley Amaya, a hospice social worker, to Julianna Sanromán Rojas a few days before Christmas, that marked the beginning of the Altars for Collective Grief project. Altars with photos of deported community members define the project, which will be placed in businesses and parks throughout Southwest Detroit, with the hope that it will expand throughout Michigan.

Theresa Beckley Amaya, a hospice social worker, holds the Altars for Collective Grief flyer, which she co-created.

The motivation was grief, and the arrest of the four students from Western International High School was the trigger. For Beckley, the grief of a family close to losing a loved one is similar to that of those whose family member has been deported; they share similar patterns.

"Obviously, these people are not gone; they're physically gone from our community. And that's a loss. That's an active grieving process," Beckley explained. "This person is still alive, but the family still goes through anger."

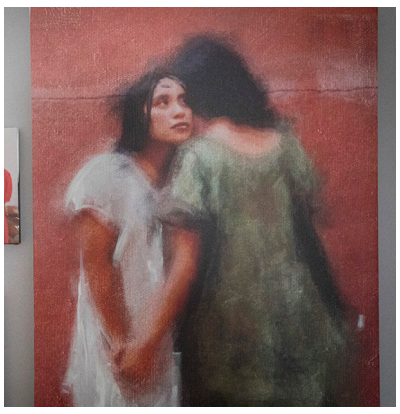
And it has been a tough year. Even though a third of ICE arrests involved individuals with no criminal records, a few weeks before the end of 2025, Washington praised the Department of Homeland Security for having deported approximately 605,000 "the worst of the worst criminal illegal aliens," in addition to celebrating the other 1.9 million who voluntarily self-deported.

In Michigan, since Trump began his second term on January 20, 2025, there have been approximately 1,500 deportations out of nearly 2,400 ICE arrests as of October 15th, according to the Deportation Data Project (DDP). The DDP collects and publishes data from federal immigration agencies through the Freedom of Information Act. The study shows that in Michigan, around 620 deportees had no criminal records, and deportations increased by 123% compared to 2024, when there were 676 deportations.

The idea behind the project is to avoid leaving people alone with their pain and instead share the experience collectively, something Beckley learned from her family when she lost her little brother when she was younger. "People get so isolated in their grief, and they think they're going crazy. I hear this from families all the time. They're like, 'Am I going crazy?' And I'm like, 'No, you're just grieving'," she adds.

Following the escalation of ICE immigration pursuits, the pain of a family member's deportation is becoming increasingly common nationwide, and it's now a palpable feeling around Southwest Detroit. Both agree that continuing with daily life without processing the grief leads to a profound sense of isolation, especially when grieving impacts the rest of someone's life.

"There's something that's like really missing here, where you just grieve alone. It gets you to a point where you feel so lonely," adds Sanromán. "We wanted to create a space where people can publicly acknowledge loss in a way that is rooted in care, rather than lonely confronting it."



Oil paints from Julianna Sanromán.

Beckley now has five years of experience as a hospice social worker. She explains that the idea of including images of loved ones during activities or workshops is part of narrative therapy, which is what this project aims to achieve. Through photographs on the altars, the community will be able to ritualize their grief, share their stories, and experience shared healing.

"Part of grieving is also being able to tell the story. I don't feel like folks necessarily talk about grief when we're talking about deportations," Beckley says. "Looking at the photos, it kind of gives people an outlet for that grief. So that's the goal. It's kind of the visual part and also the ritual part."

Although both are aware that this project will not reduce the number of deportations or ICE arrests, they seek to raise awareness of the grief caused by deportations, which often goes unnoticed in the community, and to ensure that these voices are heard around the community.

"My mom saw the work about her installed in an exhibit. And the whole hallway, she was like, 'Wow, this is me. My daughter listens to me.' And I am very thankful for that. But I want others to feel that emotion of seeing themselves in a space and feel listened to," Sanromán said.

Julianna Sanromán's parents, portrayed in solid materials.

For Sanromán, an art master's student, it is a personal matter. Her dad was arrested and deported to his native Mexico 19 years ago. "I had a dad who was very loving every day. He is. He would come home from work and carry me in his arms, watch TV with me, read books with me, and go to the park with me, but suddenly one day he didn't come home," says Julianna, who is now 27 years old. "How do you get over that?"

Months after her father's deportation, her family moved to Mexico to stay together; however, she was sent back to the U.S. to continue her education. Since then, she has carried her family with her portrayed in her oil paintings and on solid materials like wood or fabric and displays them in her exhibitions. For her, it's a way of taking them with her wherever she goes, a way of remembering them.

Julianna Sanromán Rojas, Altars for Collective Grief project co-creator, poses at her studio in her house.

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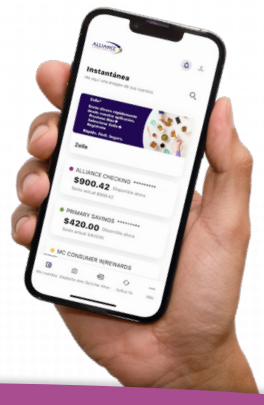

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GUEST OPINIONS: LETHAL SHOOT

Archbishop Weisenburger: Minnesota Shooting Raises 'Deep Concern' Over Respect for Life

Reprinted with permission from Detroit Catholic

Following the death of a Minnesota woman shot and killed by a federal immigration agent Jan. 7 in Minneapolis, Detroit Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger joined bishops around the U.S. in calling for peace, prayers and a renewed respect for human life.

In a Friday statement, Archbishop Weisenburger said he joined his prayers to those of Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul-Minneapolis and all U.S. Catholics, expressing concern over the rising violence and urging a greater emphasis on human dignity.

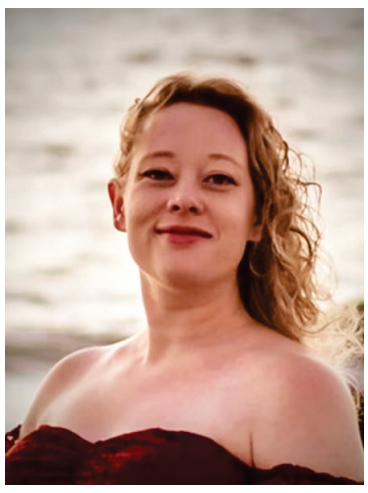
"Recent events in Minneapolis, in which a confrontation resulted in the death of Renee Nicole Macklin Good, have raised deep concern about how quickly situations involving federal law enforcement can escalate to the use of lethal force," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "The sorrow felt by many has deepened into profound distress and anger as questions continue to emerge regarding the circumstances of the incident.

"I join with Archbishop Hebda, the Archbishop of Minneapolis-St. Paul, in calling all people of good will to a time of prayer for the victim, her family, and that community, and echo his words that, 'We continue to be at a time in this country when we need to lower the temperature of rhetoric, stop fear-filled speculation, and start seeing all people as created in the image and likeness of God,'" Archbishop Weisenburger added.

Good, 37, originally from Colorado, was shot and killed during an incident involving an officer with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which was conducting immigration enforcement sweeps in the Twin Cities.

Police said Good, a U.S. citizen, was in her vehicle at the time of the shooting, and suffered a gunshot wound to the head. She was pronounced dead after being transported to a local hospital.

The shooting has raised deep concerns across the country about the use of lethal force by law enforcement, even as the investigation into the incident continues to unfold.



Renee Nicole Good

"This tragic loss of life stands as a sobering reminder of the grave consequences that arise when confrontations escalate and lethal force is used unnecessarily," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "The taking of life in such circumstances crosses a moral line and can never be justified. In this moment, we are called as a nation to renew our commitment to safeguarding the dignity of every human person and the sanctity of every human life, without exception."

The value of human life must weigh heavily in every situation, especially those where tensions are high, the archbishop added.

"With pastoral concern, I urge ICE and all law enforcement agencies to adopt practices that honor the dignity of those they serve by prioritizing de-escalation, using non-lethal means whenever possible, and allowing space for peaceful expressions of grief and protest," Archbishop Weisenburger said. "These are not simply matters of policy, but moral obligations rooted in our shared belief in the God-given value of every human life.

"In this challenging time, I invite all Americans to reflect on how we can collectively build a culture of peace, restraint, and mutual respect for one another," the archbishop concluded. "Trusting in God's guidance, let us recommit ourselves, through our words and our daily actions, to the path that honors the precious gift of life."

The shooting has prompted several large gatherings, including a vigil held for the victim in Minneapolis Jan. 7. Public schools in Minneapolis were closed Jan. 8-9 due to safety concerns related to the shooting incident.

The Use of Lethal Force Against Unarmed Civilians: ICE and Renee Nicole Good

By Jorge Casarez

The avoidable shooting of Renee Nicole Good by an officer was recorded on video by witnesses for the world to see exactly what ICE Officers did. The government's and the right wing media's response was strikingly similar to the tragedy that happened 10 blocks away with George Floyd. Both cases are different, yet similar: law officers committed the criminal abuse of power and the Department of Homeland Security and the Vice President publicly blamed the victim despite the video evidence.

In the case of Ms. Good, the ICE Officer stood in front of her car while using his cell phone to video her prior to her attempt to flee; he shot at her three times. He then walked to her car after it crashed then walked back, then and only then did he request someone else to call 911. He did not provide first aid.

In 2013, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) commissioned the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) to conduct a review of the Use of Force by CBP officers and agents. It included 67 CBP incidents where the use of deadly force occurred from 2010 through 2012. It also reviewed CBP Use of Force policies, equipment, tactics, and training, using government-furnished information, equipment, and materials and CBP policy documents.

The PERF report is titled: U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION USE OF FORCE REVIEW: CASES AND POLICIES February 2013

The report reviewed 67 incidents of the use of deadly force and provided specific recommendations; 15 cases were specific to vehicles. Within the report it said:

Based on a review of the submitted cases, it appears that CBP practice allows shooting at the driver of any suspect vehicle that comes in the direction of agents. It is suspected that in many vehicle shooting cases, the subject driver was attempting to flee from the agents ***who intentionally put themselves into the exit path of the vehicle, thereby exposing themselves to additional risk and creating justification for the use of deadly force****. In most of these cases, the agents have stated that they were shooting at the driver of a vehicle that was coming at them and posing an imminent threat to their life. (emphasis added).*

PERF offered several significant recommendations regarding training and protocols. Specific to vehicles the recommendations were simple and clear. Some of the recommendations were: Border Patrol Officers were not to stand in front of vehicles in high-risk situations; that use of force is not justified unless there is the use of a weapon other than a vehicle. Not to stick your arms into the vehicle.

The report also included other sensible and simple recommendations:

with regard to restrictions on shooting at vehicles, it should be explained that shooting at vehicles poses a higher risk to agents and innocent bystanders and should be avoided. If the driver is disabled, the vehicle is likely to continue unguided, creating a different hazard… Likewise, agents should be trained to get out of the way of oncoming vehicles as opposed to intentionally assuming a position in the path of such vehicles.

No matter the situation, the use of lethal force is to be used as a last resort not as protocol, not as defense unless a weapon (other than a vehicle) is used.

The report was made after a series of 67 incidents where their officers of 15 were instances where Border Patrol shot at the vehicles of unarmed individuals fleeing. The number of incidents where officers stood in front of the vehicles and then reported that they feared for their life occurred with enough frequency producing a pattern such that the report implied that the officer intentionally placed themselves in that position to then justify using their firearms.

The report completed in 2013 was filled with simple common-sense recommendations that were made and given to Congress. On February 27, 2014, the Los Angeles Times reported on this report and noted that this was related to 19 deaths.

The report was clear that a half-ounce bullet cannot stop a 4000-pound vehicle. That the officer is to not put himself in danger and instead of lethal force was to simply step away.

Lethal force was to be considered if there was a weapon, and it said that a weapon had to be something other than a vehicle; that is to say, a SUV is not a weapon.

In the Renee Nicole Good case, ICE had already videoed her face, her car, and her license plate; she could have fled but then would have been apprehended later and safely.

What is not clear is why lethal force was used when scenarios had been addressed in 2013. It was stated within the report that the then current "practice" included officers putting themselves in danger and then reporting that it "justified" their use of lethal force. The "feared for their life" excuse has been used in almost every case where

avoidable lethal force was used with unarmed civilians. This pattern was clear and it was this pattern of creating a high risk situation to then justify a shooting that required review and recommendations. The recommendations of the report were clear: add rules, regulations and policies to stop the practice of using lethal force.

One significant recommendation was:

Recommendation: Consideration should be given to adding at the beginning of the foreword a statement similar to the following: A respect for human life shall guide all members of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the use of force. CBP officers/agents shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the life of the officer/agent or others. Excessive force is strictly prohibited.

As long as people believe that the officers have immunity then the officers will have no fear of accountability. There is no justification to give members of law enforcement immunity. As mentioned in the report, officers were placing themselves in situations to justify the use of lethal force. Citizenship is demanding because it requires vigilance of the government's duty to the people.

Photos by Erick Diaz Veliz and Luciana Vega

Minneapolis ICE Killing Shows Where Trump's Dehumanizing Agenda Leads

by Senator Stephanie Chang | Reprinted with permission from Detroit Free Press

On January 7, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent shot and killed activist, poet and mom Renee Nicole Good, 37, in Minneapolis. She leaves behind three children, ages 6, 12 and 15.

Good's death was horrific, unjustifiable and preventable. I echo the public calls for accountability, transparency and justice. Yet those calls do not go deep enough.

Good's murder is the latest example of two things: First, that Trump's dangerous mass deportation and detention effort makes us all less safe, immigrants and non-immigrants alike; and second, that we are all in an ever-compounding crisis at the intersection of immigration and criminal justice.

I have worked on immigrants' rights issues and criminal justice issues for two decades.

The core of this organizing and policy work has always been honoring the humanity of people impacted by the immigration or criminal justice systems, especially when Trump's administration treats people like animals, when they are contributing members of our economy and communities.

The Venn diagram is becoming clearer every week under Trump's second administration.

What Trump's second term has made routine

- Masked ICE agents kidnapping people off the streets.
- Dads being detained by ICE/CBP outside schools.
- People—who are doing everything the government asked them to do—detained at their immigration check-ins.
- Refugees with expunged criminal records targeted for deportation.
- Nenko Gantchev's death at the North Lake Processing Center, a privately-run ICE detention center in Baldwin, Michigan.
- Numerous reports of problems with medical care, food, and living conditions at ICE facilities across the country.
- Detained people being moved from facility to facility across multiple state lines, making it nearly impossible for their loved ones to locate them, or for attorneys to provide legal services.
- Countless due process violations.
- Deportees shackled for more than 40 hours on flights to countries they may or may not have ever lived in.

And now, the killing of Renee Nicole Good by ICE, in the same city where George Floyd was murdered by law enforcement officers in 2020.

Together with community organizations and other elected leaders, I have helped tell the stories of immigrants and refugees who are part of Michigan's story.

Teenagers, parents, workers—all in ICE custody

Lue Yang is a Hmong refugee who was born in a refugee camp and is an autoworker, the president of the Hmong Family association, father and primary caretaker of an elderly grandmother. He was detained by ICE as he left work last summer. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer pardoned his decades-old expunged low-level conviction and, thankfully, ICE released him to his family in December, after five months in detention.

There is more work to be done.

Derly, Antony, Mor and Santiago are teenagers, all students at or graduates of Detroit's Western international High School. Kerly loves alternative indie rock and plays volleyball. Antony plays the violin, is in an Advanced Placement art class, and works at Chili's with his cousin Kerly. Mor ranked fifth in his graduating class. Santiago is a star baseball player.

All have pending legal asylum applications, are under the age of 20—and are currently in ICE custody as they face deportation.

Ernesto Cuevas Enciso, who came to this country at the age of 3, is a former DACA recipient whose wife is a U.S. citizen. They have a beautiful 1-year-old daughter, with whom he desperately wanted to spend Christmas. He is a primary caretaker for his ailing father. Ernesto has a pending green card application, and has legal work authorization. He was down the street from his construction work site in December when he was stopped by an unmarked car, leading to his detention at the North Lake Processing Center.

Why do we emphasize the details in stories of these individuals and their families? Because the Trump administration and the far right demonize immigrants and refugees, by lying, and doing everything they can to make other Americans afraid.

And this constant dehumanization, combined with a multitude of problems with current immigration enforcement practices, had led to too much mistreatment and too many deaths—in detention centers and now, in the streets.

I know that the research showing that immigrants commit fewer crimes than citizens, or the fact that a tiny fraction of ICE detainees have any criminal record at all, or any other number of truths unfortunately will not make a dent in what some people think about immigrants and refugees.

So, by emphasizing people's real life stores, we hope to counteract the constant dehumanization.

Moms and dads, friends and neighbors

By reminding fellow Americans that the hundreds of thousands of those who have been deported or are facing deportation are our neighbors, children, dads, moms, autoworkers, churchgoers and small-business owners, we move people toward action.

Having to constantly prove that people in our communities are, in fact, human and deserving of life is exhausting yet necessary.

And the way we do this now for Ernesto, Lue, Kerly, Antony, Mor and Santiago reminds me how we did this for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Sonya Massey.

How many more humanizing stories will it take to convince enough of the American public and elected leaders that all of our communities deserve to be treated with dignity? That all of us are human?

Always remember how you felt when you watched the video of Renee Nicole Good being shot.

A year from now, two years from now—remember how you felt hearing the stories of children, citizens of the United States, losing parents to deportation.

Do not turn away, and do not forget.

And to current and future elected leaders—remember too.

Have courage. Let the thousands of heart-wrenching stories remind you: We can't be afraid to advance meaningful change on immigration—and criminal justice—so that we can finally have safe communities where every person is treated with dignity.

Congress must act, decisively and without delay. The authority of the law depends not on force alone, but on restraint, discipline, and accountability. On January 7, 2026, Renee Nicole Good, a 37-year-old U.S. citizen, was shot and killed in Minneapolis when an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent fired into her vehicle. She had just dropped off her 6-year-old son at school. Federal officials claimed the shooting was justified, that Ms. Good attempted to use her car as a weapon. That assertion is not sufficient. When the federal government takes a life, it owes the public a full, transparent accounting, grounded in evidence, not reflexive defenses.

The next day, on January 8, 2026, federal agents shot two people during a traffic stop in Portland, Oregon. Their conditions were not immediately known. These incidents are part of a broader and deeply troubling pattern. In the last four months, federal immigration officers have fired on at least nine people across five states and Washington, D.C.; every one of those shootings involved a person inside a vehicle, and at least one other person has died. Each time, the explanation has been identical, fear of being struck by a car. When lethal force follows the same script again and again, Congress is not merely permitted to intervene; it is obligated to do so.

This pattern did not begin in January 2026. In September 2025, Silverio Villegas-Gonzalez was shot and killed outside Chicago during an immigration stop; in October 2025, Carlitos Ricardo Parias was shot in Los Angeles under similar circumstances. In both cases, official accounts were later challenged by available evidence.

Congress must now demand a full congressional investigation into the use of force by federal immigration agents, including traffic stops, rules of engagement, training, supervision, and post-incident review. This is not a symbolic exercise. It is a test of whether federal power will be governed by law or excused by repetition. If Congress fails to act, it sends the message that a badge alone excuses deadly force, a notion that runs against our Constitution and the American promise that no one stands above the law.

In solidarity,

Roman Palomares
LULAC National President

Juan Proaño
LULAC CEO

Demand a Congressional Investigation of DHS to Stop Deadly Violence today, and add your name to the petition today. Visit **www.lulac.org/act/investigate-dhs/** to sign the petition.

Statement on Killing of Renee Nicole Good by ICE Agent in Minneapolis

by Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Detroit City Council 6th District

I am devestated at the brutal killing of Renee Nicole Good, a U.S. citizen born in Colorado, by a federal ICE agent. I pray for the family and friends of Renee, as well as the Minneapolis community, as they grieve this senseless loss. ICE must leave Minneapolis immediately.

This tragedy was preventable and a direct result of the Trump Administration's nationalist agenda. Since day one, the Administration has worked to instill fear in communities and manufacture chaos through their historic funding allocations in the immigration detention machine, under the guise of public safety and at the expense of our neighbors and our basic needs. But we—the poor and working class, people of color, immigrants, and LGBTQ+ individuals—aren't any safer. In fact, the murder of Renee proves that living in militarized communities puts us all in danger—citizen or not.

We know what our communities really need: historic investments in affordable housing, healthcare, education, transportation, and good paying jobs. We need to ensure protections for all residents and local and state levels. Until our priorities shift toward care, no one is safe from the dangers of this lawless Administration.

DCFC Women's MASL League Home Opener Victory

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

On Saturday, January 3rd, the DCFC Women's hosted there MASL League home opener at Detroit City Fieldhouse, hosting FC Berlin.

The DCFC Women defeated FC Berlin, 6 - 4.

The DCFC women are on the road, Saturday, January, 31st traveling to take on Indiana United FC at 7:00 pm, then return home to host Louisville Triumph FC, on Saturday, February 7th at 7:30 pm.

The DCFC women go back on the road to take on Louisville Triumph FC, on Sunday, February 15th at 7:45 pm, before returning home for a 3-game homestand, starting on Saturday, February 21st at 7:30 pm.

Photos are highlights from the DCFC Women vs. FC Berlin

Fatima Nasser (#91) looks to make a pass out of the defensive end of play

Kayla Addison (#9) clears the ball upfield

Mackenzie Reuber (#15) gets pinned on the boards during an offensive attack

Assistant coach Makenna Mascaro shouts in play adjustments

Hannah Crum (#10) takes a shot on goal

Detroit City FC celebrates a goal

US World Cup Candidates Have Mixed Fortunes

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

It was great to see several candidates for the United States' World Cup team get on the scoresheet last weekend. Weston McKennie continued his run with Juventus scoring twice in a 5-0 rout of Cremonese in the Serie A. Striker Ricardo Pepi added another goal to his season tally for PSV Eindhoven. Defender Joe Scally scored a rare goal, only his third, for Borussia Moechengladbach. Brendan Aaronson had a pair of goals for Leeds last Wednesday as he picks up his pace leading into the World Cup. Folarin Balogun scored his 8th goal of the season for Monaco.

It hasn't all been goals and goal involvements, though. While scoring his goal, Pepi fell awkwardly and broke his arm, putting his availability for the March international games against Belgium and Portugal in doubt. This marks the second January in a row in which Pepi has suffered a major injury. Last year, it was a knee injury that kept him out for nine months. After surgery on Sunday, Pepi is expected to be out for two months. It's not catastrophic, but certainly not ideal.

Defender Chris Richards, expected to anchor the back line after emerging as a leader during 2025, had a disastrous match against 6th division Macclesfield FC in the English FA Cup. Crystal Palace became the first defending FA Cup winner to be eliminated by a non-league team since 1909, when Crystal Palace defeated Wolverhampton. To make it more painful, Richards was at fault for Palace conceding both goals in a truly embarrassing performance.

While Joe Scally commands a starting position at Moechengladbach, his international colleague Gio Reyna does not. Reyna has talent and often shows it for the national team, but at the club level he remains an afterthought. He came on for Scally late in their game with the team already ahead 4-0 and played just five minutes. He struggles to keep fit and many will remember that he came close to being sent home from the World Cup in Qatar due to his behavior. If he could ever put together a solid run of games this spring, national team coach Mauricio Pochettino would certainly include him in the squad.

Brendan Aaronson's recent scoring run has started to win over supporters at Leeds United. Their fanatical supporters branded him a flop, especially when he took a loan opportunity in Germany after the club was relegated two years ago. He returned for the promotion battle and now back in the Premier League has been in great form over the past few weeks, cementing a place in the starting eleven. Pochettino will be attracted by his work rate off the ball, constant hustling and disrupting opponents. He has increased his chances of being selected.

Captain Tyler Adams suffered yet another injury at the end of December. He tore his MCL and could also be a doubt for the March games. Adams, when fit, covers an incredible amount of ground in midfield. He wins the ball and directs traffic. The national team misses his leadership when he's not there. Bournemouth, his club, has sold most of its best players and badly need Adams to return to add some stability in midfield. His health will be a major worry for Pochettino, because there isn't a ready made replacement.

Antonee "Jedi" Robinson finally returned for Fulham in December. Recognized as the top left back in the Premier League, Robinson's play will be crucial for the USA at the World Cup. His speed in attack and recovery is unmatched. His return has coincided with an upturn in Fulham's fortunes. They went into December barely above the relegation zone and have jumped up to 9th, just four points out of a UEFA Champions League place. Fulham even put in a transfer bid for Ricardo Pepi to unite the Americans, but PSV rejected the offer and Pepi's injury scuttled further negotiations.

Pochettino has accomplished his goal of making spots on the national team competitive again. All these players know that no roster spot will be guaranteed. Pochettino will be looking at form, fitness, and compatibility. He has worked to built a culture for the national team that he found to be lacking when he took the job. After a terrific set of results during the six internationals played in the fall, it looks like his structure, culture, and style have been incorporated. The March games will showcase how much progress the team has made. Belgium and Portugal are the kinds of opponents against which the USA typically struggles: European powers.

Pochettino's biggest worry may be the goalkeeping pool. None play in Europe. All are in MLS. MLS teams just started preseason this week. They will begin CONCACAF Champions Cup games in early February and the regular season on February 21. That gives the MLS players, goalkeepers and others, about five weeks to make an impression ahead of the March window. They will know that eyes are on them, just as the Europe based players have had for some time.

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Wrestler photos from previous wrestling at Taqueria El Rey, by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

You could be next. This is personal.

By Robert Reich

If agents of the federal government can murder a 37-year-old woman in broad daylight who, as videotapes show, was merely trying to get out of their way, they can murder you.

Even if Trump and his vice president and his secretary of homeland security all claim, contrary to the videotapes, that Renee Macklin Good was trying to kill an agent who acted in self-defense, they could make up the same about you.

Even if Trump describes her as a "professional agitator" and his goons call her a "domestic terrorist," they could say the same about you regardless of your political views or activism. If you have left-wing political views and are an activist, you're in greater danger.

How can we believe what the FBI turns up in its investigation, when the FBI is working for Trump and is headed by one of his goons, and is investigating possible connections between Renee Good and groups that have been protesting Trump's immigration enforcement?

What credence can we give federal officials who are blocking local and state investigators from reviewing evidence they're collecting?

You could be murdered because Trump's attorney general has defined "domestic terrorism" to include impeding law enforcement officers. What if you're merely standing in the way — in the wrong place at the wrong time? Or maybe you're engaging in non-violent civil disobedience?

In October, Marimar Martinez, a U.S. citizen in Chicago, was in her car trying to warn people about ICE when she collided with a Border Patrol vehicle. Federal officials say she "rammed" the car. Her lawyers say she was sideswiped by it.

The agent then got out of his car and shot her five times. She survived. The Justice Department then charged her with assaulting a federal officer.

You could be next. All of us need to realize this. The people who are being assaulted and murdered are abiding the law.

The regime has also been grabbing people from their homes who are legally in the United States with permanent status — not just visas permitting them to work or study here but green cards — and whisking them away to prison because they've engaged in constitutionally protected speech the regime doesn't like.

This is what happened to Mahmoud Khalil — who graduated from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, has a green card, and whose wife is an American citizen.

Plainclothes Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents appeared at his apartment building on March 8 and then detained him without charges in a Louisiana ICE detention facility for three and a half months. (He missed his graduation and the birth of his first child.)

The Trump regime continues to try to deport him. A federal court heard arguments on Oct. 22 in the regime's ongoing deportation case against him but has not issued a verdict.

Khalil did nothing illegal. He was in the United States legally. He has never been charged with a crime. He expressed his political point of view — peacefully, non-violently, non-threateningly. That's supposed to be permitted — dare I say even encouraged? — in a democracy.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump conceded Khalil was snatched up and sent off because of his politics. "This is the

first arrest of many to come," wrote Trump. "We know there are more students at Columbia and other Universities across the Country who have engaged in pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity, and the Trump Administration will not tolerate it."

Trump could just as well arrest and expel permanent residents who voice support for, say, transgender people or DEI or "woke" or anything else the regime finds "anti-American" and offensive.

What's to stop the Trump regime from arresting you for, say, advocating the replacement of Republicans in Congress in 2026 and electing a Democrat to the presidency in 2028?

Renee Macklin Good was murdered. Marimar Martinez was shot but survived. Mahmoud Khalil was arrested and jailed and is still fighting deportation. There are many others. The next could be you or someone you love.

What's at stake isn't just American democracy. It's also your safety and security and that of your friends and loved ones. This is personal — to every one of us.

A dictatorship knows no bounds.

We must commit to peacefully fighting this regime, to ending Republican control of Congress in 2026, and to sending this dangerous gang packing in 2028 — assuming we're still free and alive by then.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

OPINIÓN EDITORIAL

Opinión de un invitado:

Tú podrías ser el siguiente. Esto es algo personal.

Por Robert Reich

Si los agentes del gobierno federal pueden asesinar a una mujer de 37 años a plena luz del día que, como muestran los videos, simplemente intentaba apartarse de su camino, pueden asesinarte a ti también.

Incluso si Trump, su vicepresidente y su secretario de Seguridad Nacional afirman, en contra de lo que muestran los videos, que Renee Macklin Good intentaba matar a un agente que actuó en defensa propia, podrían inventarse lo mismo sobre ti.

Incluso si Trump la describe como una "agitadora profesional" y sus secuaces la llaman "terrorista doméstica", podrían decir lo mismo de ti, independientemente de tus opiniones políticas o tu activismo. Si tienes opiniones políticas de izquierda y eres activista, corres mayor peligro.

¿Cómo podemos creer lo que el FBI descubra en su investigación, cuando el FBI trabaja para Trump, está dirigido por uno de sus secuaces y está investigando posibles conexiones entre Renee Good y grupos que han estado protestando contra la política de inmigración de Trump?

¿Qué credibilidad podemos dar a los funcionarios federales que impiden que los investigadores locales y estatales revisen las pruebas que están recopilando?

Podrías ser asesinado porque el fiscal general de Trump ha definido el "terrorismo doméstico" para incluir la obstrucción a los agentes del orden. ¿Qué pasa si simplemente estás en el lugar equivocado en el momento equivocado? ¿O tal vez estás participando en desobediencia civil no violenta?

En octubre, Marimar Martinez, ciudadana estadounidense en Chicago, estaba en su coche intentando advertir a la gente sobre el ICE cuando chocó con un vehículo de la Patrulla Fronteriza. Los funcionarios federales dicen que ella "embistió" el coche. Sus abogados dicen que fue golpeada lateralmente por él.

Luego, el agente salió de su coche y le disparó cinco veces. Ella sobrevivió. El Departamento de Justicia la acusó de agredir a un agente federal.

Tú podrías ser el siguiente. Todos debemos darnos cuenta de esto. Las personas que están siendo agredidas y asesinadas están cumpliendo la ley.

El régimen también ha estado arrebatando a personas de sus hogares que se encuentran legalmente en Estados Unidos con estatus de residencia permanente —no solo con visas que les permiten trabajar o estudiar aquí, sino con tarjetas de residencia— y llevándolas a prisión porque han participado en discursos protegidos por la Constitución que al régimen no le gustan. Esto es lo que le sucedió a Mahmoud Khalil, quien se graduó de la Escuela de Asuntos Internacionales y Públicos de Columbia, tiene una tarjeta de residencia permanente y cuya esposa es ciudadana estadounidense.

Agentes de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas vestidos de civil se presentaron en su edificio de apartamentos el 8 de marzo y lo detuvieron sin cargos en un centro de detención de ICE en Luisiana durante tres meses y medio. (Se perdió su graduación y el nacimiento de su primer hijo).

El régimen de Trump continúa intentando deportarlo. Un tribunal federal escuchó los argumentos el 22 de octubre en el caso de deportación que el régimen mantiene en su contra, pero aún no ha emitido un veredicto.

Khalil no cometió ningún delito. Estaba en Estados Unidos legalmente. Nunca ha sido acusado de ningún delito. Expresó su punto de vista político de forma pacífica, sin violencia ni amenazas. Se supone que eso está permitido —¿me atrevo a decir que incluso se fomenta?— en una democracia.

En una publicación en Truth Social, Trump admitió que Khalil fue detenido y deportado debido a sus ideas políticas. "Este es el primero de muchos arrestos que vendrán", escribió Trump. "Sabemos que hay más estudiantes en Columbia y otras universidades del país que han participado en actividades proterroristas, antisemitas y antiestadounidenses, y la administración Trump no lo tolerará".

Trump bien podría arrestar y expulsar a los residentes permanentes que expresen su apoyo, por ejemplo, a las personas transgénero, a la diversidad, la equidad y la inclusión, o a cualquier otra cosa que el régimen considere "antiestadounidense" y ofensiva.

¿Qué impedirá que el régimen de Trump lo arreste a usted, por ejemplo, por abogar por el reemplazo de los republicanos en el Congreso en 2026 y la elección de un demócrata a la presidencia en 2028?

Renee Macklin Good fue asesinada. Marimar Martinez recibió un disparo, pero sobrevivió. Mahmoud Khalil fue arrestado y encarcelado y todavía lucha contra la deportación. Hay muchos otros. El próximo podría ser usted o alguien a quien ama.

Lo que está en juego no es solo la democracia estadounidense. También es su seguridad y la de sus amigos y seres queridos. Esto es personal para cada uno de nosotros.

Una dictadura no conoce límites.

Debemos comprometernos a luchar pacíficamente contra este régimen, a poner fin al control republicano del Congreso en 2026 y a expulsar a esta peligrosa banda en 2028, suponiendo que todavía seamos libres y estemos vivos para entonces.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

¿Tienes una opinión contraria? Escríbenos a info@elcentralmedia.com

Special World's Cultures

Argentina

Our Lady Of Luján

Our Lady of Luján, also known as the Virgin of Luján, is considered the Patron Saint of Argentina. Her feast day is May 8th each year. The image depicts the Immaculate Conception and was made in the early 17th century in Brazil from fired clay.

The celebrations for Our Lady of Luján bring pilgrims to the Basilica of Our Lady of Luján from all over Argentina, as well as from around the world, thanks to the miracles she grants.

The story tells that Our Lady of Luján arrived at the port of Buenos Aires in 1630 on a ship from Brazil carrying two images of the Virgin. It was expected that the images would reach Sumampa, in the Argentine province of Santiago del Estero, but Our Lady of Luján had other plans.

They left Buenos Aires, embarking on their journey to their expected destination, Sumampa, making a stop at the banks of the Luján River. The following morning, when they tried to resume their journey, the animals froze, unable to move an inch. The caravan organized themselves to investigate, suspecting the load might not have been properly distributed.

Once they had reorganized, they separated the crates containing the image of

the Virgin Mary. They were then able to move forward, but when they tried to move the crates, the animals froze again. It was then that Negro Manuel understood what was happening, and he explained that the Virgin Mary in one of the crates wished to remain there. So, they opened one of the crates and found the beautiful image of the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception.

This was the miracle, and from then on, everyone in the caravan venerated her, weeping with emotion at having witnessed the miracle of the cart.

Poesía Argentina

"Where there is a need, a right is born".

Eva Perón

Eva Duarte, better known as Evita Perón, was born in Los Toldos, Buenos Aires, in May 1919. She was an Argentine actress and politician. She became a crucial figure in Argentine political life after her marriage to General Juan Domingo Perón.

Undoubtedly, one of the most important achievements of Eva Perón's political influence was the enactment of the women's suffrage law in 1947, which granted all Argentine women the right to vote.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

Argentina, the second largest country in South America, known for being the home of the great tango musician Carlos Gardel, as well as the birthplace of Quino's cartoon comic, Mafalda.

Argentina has a great diversity of population, not only European, but also a vast number of indigenous peoples, such as: Mapuche, Toba, Guaraní, Diaguita, Kolla, Quechua, Wichí, Comechingón, Huarpe, Tehuelche, Mocoví, Pampa, Aymara, Ava guaraní, Rankulche, Charrúa, Atacama, Mbyá guaraní, Omaguaca, Pilagá, Tonocoté, Lule, Tupí Guaraní, Querandí, Chané, Sanavirón, Ona, Chorote, Maimará, Chulupí, Vilela, Tapiete.

Poesía Argentina

NN

Esteban Charpentier

Never again will I die so lightly,
so outside my body, so unconscious,
as I once did in my sleep.
Wislawa Szymborska

To say your name
To give it voice
To display it from the balcony, to hang flags and tablecloths on it
To take your name in your left hand
To draw it closer
To feel its weight, its abundance
To sing your name
To give it the cadence and rhythm of a sidestep
Of continuous vertebral time
To think your name
To measure it in silences
To give it a number, a shadow
To spell your name
To discover saffron and mustard in its farewells
To leave your name
To let it speak for itself, to occupy mine
To leap upon it and chew its dreams
So that after so much...
So that after everything...
It may be submerged in the blood of an anonymous destiny.

Esteban Charpentier is a poet born in Buenos Aires in September 1958. He is a lawyer, mediator, and president of the PIBES Foundation: For Equality, Well-being, Education, and Health. He co-hosts a radio program about poetry and literature called DENSERIO with Héctor Urruspuru.

He published: "Workshop of Memories" (1986), "The Other Moon" (1991), "The Rider of Your Gallop of Laughter" (1997), "Dear Poets" Homage to the Poets of Spain (1998), "Poetic Ending" (1999), "My Heart Asked Me for It" (2001), "Me Alejo Charpentier" (2003), "Bengali Sailor" (2008), "REVERSIBLE" Bilingual Edition (2009), "I Won't Be a Husband But I Have a Taxi" (2010) (PROSE), "Poetry Is a Soul Tired of the Future" (2011), "Anthology" and Individual Publication with Paper Kite Publishers of Kingston, USA (2011), "Buenos Aires Stained Glass or the Need to Tell You a Few Things" (2012).

He has published his poems in newspapers and magazines both in Argentina and internationally.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Argentina

Virgen de Luján

La Virgen de Luján, más conocida como Nuestra Señora de Luján, es considerada la Santa Patrona de Argentina. Su fecha de celebración es el 8 de mayo de cada año. La imagen muestra la representación de la Inmaculada Concepción y fue realizada a principios del siglo XVII en Brasil con arcilla cocida.

Las celebraciones para la Virgen de Luján traen a peregrinos a la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Luján de todo el territorio argentino, así como del mundo entero gracias a los milagros que concede.

La historia cuenta que la Virgen de Luján llegó al puerto de Santa María de los Buenos Aires en 1630 en un barco que venía de Brasil con dos imágenes de la Virgen. Se esperaba que las imágenes llegaran a Sumampa, provincia argentina de Santiago del Estero, mas el deseo de la Virgen de Luján era otro.

Salieron de Buenos Aires emprendiendo el viaje rumbo al esperado destino Sumampa haciendo una parada al pie del río Luján. A la mañana siguiente, cuando quisieron retomar el viaje, al tratar de avanzar los animales quedaron paralizados, no podían dar ni un solo paso, de modo que la caravana se organizó para revisar qué pasaba, pues consideraron que a lo mejor no estaba bien distribuida la carga.

Cuando reorganizaron todo, separaron los cajones con la imagen de la virgen, así fue que vieron que pudieron avanzar, pero al tratar de mover los cajones se volvieron a paralizar los animales, fue así como el Negro Manuel entendió lo que estaba pasando, y les expliqué que la Virgen de uno de los cajones deseaba quedarse ahí. Así pues, abrieron uno de los cajones y encontraron la bella imagen de la Virgen María Santísima en su advocación de la Purísima Concepción.

Así fue el milagro y de ahí todos en la caravana se pusieron a venerarla, lloraban de la emoción de haber sido testigos del milagro de la carreta.

Figuras nacionales

"Donde existe una necesidad nace un derecho".

Eva Perón

Eva Duarte, más conocida como Evita Perón, nació Los Toldos de Buenos Aires en mayo de 1919. Fue una actriz y política argentina. Formó parte crucial de la vida política en Argentina después de su matrimonio con el General Juan Domingo Perón.

Uno de sus logros fue la promulgación de la ley de sufragio femenino, en 1947, en la que se le otorgó el derecho a todas las mujeres argentinas para votar.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

Argentina

Argentina, el segundo país más grande de Suramérica, conocido por ser la casa del gran músico del tango Carlos Gardel, así como cuna del cómic-cartón de Quino, Mafalda.

Argentina cuenta con una gran diversidad de población, no sólo europea, sino también de una vasta cantidad de pueblos indígenas, como lo son: Mapuche, Toba, Guaraní, Diaguita, Kolla, Quechua, Wichí, Comechingón, Huarpe, Tehuelche, Mocoví, Pampa, Aymara, Ava guaraní, Rankulche, Charrúa, Atacama, Mbyá guaraní, Omaguaca, Pilagá, Tonocoté, Lule, Tupí guaraní, Querandí, Chané, Sanavirón, Ona, Chorote, Maimará, Chulupí, Vilela, Tapiete.

Poesía Argentina

NN

Esteban Charpentier

Ya jamás volveré a morir tan levemente,
tan fuera del cuerpo, tan inconsciente,
como antaño en su sueño.
Wislawa Szymborska

Decir tu nombre
Darlo a la voz
Balconearlo, colgarle banderas y manteles
Tomar tu nombre con la mano izquierda
Ir acercándolo
Sentir su peso, su abundancia
Cantar tu nombre
Darle cadencia y ritmo de paso lateral
De tiempo vertebral continuo
Pensar tu nombre
Medirlo en silencios
Ponerle un número, una sombra
Deletrear tu nombre
Descubrirle azafrán y mostaza en sus adioses
Dejar tu nombre
Que se diga solo que ocupe el mío
Que le salte encima y le mastique los sueños
Para que después de tanto...
Para que después de todo...
Se sumerja en la sangre de un destino anónimo.

Esteban Charpentier es un poeta nacido en Buenos Aires en septiembre de 1958. Es abogado, Mediador, Preside la Fundación PIBES: Por Igualdad, Bienestar Educación y Salud. Conduce con Héctor Urruspuru el programa de radio sobre Poesía y Literatura llamado: DENSERIO.

Publicó: "Taller de memorias" (1986) "La otra luna" (1991) "El jinete de tu galope de risas" (1997) "Queridos Poetas" Homenaje a los poetas de España (1998) "Final Poético" (1999) "Me lo pedía el corazón" (2001) "Me Alejo Charpentier (2003) "Marinero Bengalí" (2008) "REVERSIBLE" Edición Bilingüe (2009) "No seré marido pero tengo un remís" (2010) (PROSA). "La poesía es un alma cansada de futuro" (2011) "Antology" y Publicación Individual en la Editorial Paper Kite de Kingston U.S.A. (2011) "AGUAFUERES PORTEÑA o la necesidad de contarte algunas cosas" (2012).

Ha publicado sus poemas en diarios y revistas tanto para Argentina, como para medios internaciones.

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4. If you get stopped by the police, ask if you're free to go. If they say yes, calmly walk away.
5. If you get arrested, you have a right to ask why. Otherwise, say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately. **Don't sign, say or agree to anything without a lawyer present.**
6. If you get stopped by a member of the military or any law enforcement officer at a protest, **you have the right to remain silent or to tell them that you'll only answer questions in the presence of an attorney** —no matter your citizenship or immigration status.

ACLU

FREE!

2026 CLARK PARK WINTER CARNIVAL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

CARNAVAL DE INVIERNO
SABADO 17 DE ENERO

12 PM – 4 PM

Food • Outdoor Games • Music •
Petting Zoo • Horse-Drawn Carriage •
Marshmallow Roasting • Ice Skating
& Much More!

CLARK PARK
WINTER CARNIVAL HOCKEY CLASSIC
JUEGO DE INVIERNO DE HOCKEY CLASICO
6 PM: Men's Game / Juego de Hombres

Clark Park Coalition Detroit

Clark Park: 1130 Clark Street, Detroit, MI 48209
For more information call (313) 841 8534 or email clarkparkdetroit@gmail.com

City of Detroit — We Make It Happen! — Detroit Recreation Department